



## **Storm Clean-Up Begins in Several Michigan Counties**

### **State Police Remind Michiganders to Use Caution**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 23, 2015**

**LANSING, Mich.** -- Clean-up efforts are underway in several Michigan counties after fast-moving storms traveled through the Lower Peninsula last night resulting in power outages, localized flooding, fallen trees and structure damage.

"Our thoughts go out to all of the people across our state affected by Monday's severe weather," Gov. Rick Snyder said. "Our communities pull together after great challenges, and we will continue to be engaged with our local governments and communities to ensure Michiganders affected by these storms have everything they need to recover."

The National Weather Service previously confirmed an EF1 tornado in Ionia County, specifically in the city of Portland. The county has declared a local state of emergency, activating emergency operations plans and providing local aid and assistance.

Damage assessments are still being conducted, but tornadoes also potentially touched down in Calhoun, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Sanilac, Tuscola and Washtenaw counties. No fatalities have been reported as of 10 a.m.

Personnel from the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division continue to work with local emergency management coordinators throughout the state to provide assistance as needed. At this time, there have been no requests from any county or jurisdiction for state assistance.

As cleanup begins, workers should be aware of the dangers they may face in the aftermath of the storm.

#### **To stay safe:**

- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Always stay 25 feet away from a downed power line.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than candles to light homes without electrical power.
- Avoid actions that can result in carbon monoxide poisoning:
  - Do not use a grill indoors.
  - Do not use a generator in the house or garage.
- Use extreme caution when driving. If traffic signals are out, treat each signal as a stop sign. Come to a complete stop at every intersection and look before you proceed.
- Avoid standing water, flooded roadways and flooded riverbanks. Remember: Turn around, don't drown.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris. Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Beware of scam artists. Always verify that individuals and businesses hired to do work are legitimate.

**MORE**

Anyone needing assistance or guidance should contact their local emergency management agency or call 2-1-1.

Personnel with the MSP/EMHSD continue to monitor the situation and will take prudent action should conditions warrant. For the latest updates, follow the MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at [@MichEMHS](#).

To learn more about being prepared before, during and after severe weather, go to [www.michigan.gov/beprepared](http://www.michigan.gov/beprepared).

###

*The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division is responsible for coordinating state and federal resources to assist local government in response and relief activities in the event of an emergency or disaster, as well as coordinating homeland security initiatives and various federal grants.*

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Ron Leix, MSP/EMHSD Public Information Officer, (517) 336-6464